

RECEIVED

EIS002141

JAN 11 2000

STEVE ROSS

1 MR. ROSS: I'll be brief. Thank you very much. My message to the Department of Energy and the
people in this room is let's get on with building this repository and let's stop talking about it. We have the
expertise, the manpower and the knowledge at the Nevada Test Site in this valley to build the safest
2 facility for managing nuclear waste. We have decades of experience building underground facilities. It is
almost absurd that an Environmental Impact Statement is being done for the Nevada Test Site when you
consider that there are almost 1,000 repositories already there. I understand that you have to prepare
Environmental Impact Statement, but the truth is the nuclear weapons program has already created all of
those repositories.

The Environmental Impact Statement should consider the environmental impact of Yucca Mountain in
the context of the fact that these repositories are already there. The additional impact of a well designed,
highly controlled repository will be zero and the Environmental Impact Statement should reflect that.

4 In the viability assessment, the Department of Energy concluded the site would protect public health and
safety and how there are no scientific show stoppers at the site. The Draft Environmental Impact
Statement further builds on this record of scientific evidence. If it is suitable -- and I think it will be -- I
know we have the people at the site. They can build the repository and do it right. We just need to know
how we are going to be compensated for the impacts associated with this project.

5 The test site is in a remote location. It doesn't get much rain and it's a -- a secured area controlled by the
Federal Government. We've managed nuclear weapons projects out there safely since the 1950s and we
have the work force that can carry this out safely given the opportunity and the Draft Environmental
Impact Statement should give us that opportunity. We just need to know from you how our state is going
6 to be compensated for helping the country solve this national environmental problem. The scientific
study of the mountain moves forward and nothing has been found to date that would disqualify the site,
and I think in the end, it's inevitable. It makes sense to have one centralized location for a repository
instead of the current situation and nuclear power isn't going away, so let's be real, but also fair to the
State of Nevada.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement should spell out in detail how the Federal Government is
going to provide mitigation, impact assistance to this state and to this people. Thank you very much.